



# Watertown Town Council

Administration Building  
149 Main Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
Phone: 617-972-6470

## ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,  
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,  
Vice President &  
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays  
Councilor At Large

Anthony J. Donato,  
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,  
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,  
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,  
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,  
District B Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,  
District D Councilor

## **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. MEETING WILL ONLY HAVE REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS MINUTES**

The Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown held a public meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 COVID-19 emergency and to avoid group congregation, this meeting had only remote opportunities for participation with public access provided as follows:

### **ACCESS INFORMATION:**

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <https://wcatv.org/government-channel/>
- B. Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://zoom.us/j/686435824>
- C. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 686 435 824 #  
Public may also comment through email: [vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov)

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### 1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the Town Council at 7:05 p.m. in accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 COVID-19 emergency and to avoid group congregation, through remote opportunities for participation with public access. Those present were Councilors Caroline Bays, Anthony J. Donato, John G. Gannon, Lisa J. Feltner, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, Attorney Mark Reich, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments made at the public forum.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the May 12, 2020 Town Council Meeting](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the minutes as written; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Council President Sideris stated that the Town Manager would submit the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget to the Town Council at a special meeting to be held on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

He then addressed the need to assist restaurants with their requests for more flexible standards for outdoor seating and the ability to coordinate these operations. The Licensing Board met and is willing to assist with developments. The Town Council will meet as needed to help in the process.

He mentioned that the Town Manager also is working on a process to open town facilities.

Attorney Reich stated that there were two aspects that needed to be addressed: Zoning and Licensing. There are opportunities in the zoning ordinance to make modifications without zoning variances being required: the ability to allow for the expansion of special permits. The current Licensing process requires both local approval and then state approval by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC). Currently there is state legislation that would remove the ABCC procedure and make the licensing changes a local process. Also, there is a need for notification; the hope is to streamline approvals by completing multiple requests at one time.

6. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS

Proclamation Honoring the [Watertown High School Graduates Class of 2020](#)

Because the Town is unable to provide the Watertown High School Seniors a traditional graduation, the graduates will receive a gift bag of items donated by the community and a copy of the Proclamation from the Town Council will be inserted for each graduate. Council President Sideris then read the proclamation.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Proclamation honoring the graduates of 2020; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

- A. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$35,000 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Fire Full Time Salaries Account to the Fiscal Year 2020 [Fire Vehicle Maintenance](#) Account

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town Council authorized the replacement of Ladder 1 in September 2019 and that it would take 13 months for delivery. This time period may be extended due to COVID-19 though. Ladder trucks 1 and 2 had their annual inspection and both need significant work.

Fire Chief Quinn stated both trucks were found to need significant repairs amounting to \$68,000. In order to continue using safe equipment, he has made several internal transfers amounting to \$28,085 and is requesting an additional transfer of \$35,000 from the full-time salary account. Due to department vacancies, there is a surplus in that account which could be used for the repairs.

Mr. Driscoll requested the favorable consideration of the Town Council. Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the transfer of funds in the amount of \$35,000 from the Fiscal Year 2020 Fire Full Time Salaries Account to the Fiscal Year 2020 Fire Vehicle Maintenance Account; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. First Reading on a Proposed Loan Order Authorizing the Town Treasurer, with the Approval of the Town Manager, to Borrow and/or Expend Monies in the Amount of \$103,455,000 Under and Pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority to Pay Costs of [Constructing New Hosmer and Cuniff Elementary Schools](#), Including All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto. Any Premium Received upon the Sale of Any Bonds or Notes Approved by this Order, Less Any Such Premium Applied to the Payment of the Costs of Issuance of Such Bonds or Notes, May be Applied to the Payment of Costs Approved by this Order in Accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §20, Thereby Reducing the Amount Authorized to be Borrowed to Pay Such Costs by a Like Amount

Mr. Driscoll provided background stating that the construction of the Hosmer and Cuniff Schools was bid as a single package to obtain competitive pricing, to ensure that both buildings would have the same buildings and materials, and to allow for the management of a single contract. The low bid was significantly lower than anticipated and the School Building Committee has authorized the execution of a contract with Brait Builders. This matter will be considered at the next regular Town Council meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items brought up.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Council [Approval of Town Attorney](#)

Mr. Driscoll requested the confirmation of KP Law as the Town Attorney which has served the Town since April 1993. The firm consists of 45 attorneys who service 141 municipalities within the Commonwealth, of which 50 communities have been with the firm for more than 25 years. The attorneys that serve Watertown are Mark Reich, lead attorney; Joseph Fair, labor and employment; Carolyn Murray, land use and development; and Katherine Klein, real estate.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the confirmation of KP Law as the Town's Attorney; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion as adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Driscoll stated that although the annual memorial Day parade was canceled due to COVID-19, he wanted to thank Veteran Services Agent Patrick George for his work with DPW in placing more 2,500 flags on veterans' graves in memory of their faithful service. The delta was lit in gold as part of the state's initiative to honor gold star families. CATV had a program that interviewed members of groups that would usually participate in the parade on the meaning of Memorial Day.

He further stated that as of Friday, May 22, 2020, there 373 COVID-19 cases affecting Watertown with 254 people having recovered; 4 employees with COVID-19, 2 of which have returned to work; and 23 fatalities. He expressed his sympathy on behalf of the Town to those families that have lost members. He mentioned that Governor Baker is permitting a Phase 1 reopening of the state. Public buildings will remain closed but the Town and State are working on ways to reopen responsibly to avoid a resurgence of the coronavirus.

He again thanked Town employees for their efforts; the Town Council for their assistance; and the community for cooperating with social distancing and helping to limit the spread of the virus.

10. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

Councilor Feltner requested information on the [Town's Twitter feed](#) – who is responsible for it and how it is being monitored.

#### 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Feltner wanted to thank Charlie Brietrose for his article regarding his interview with three former veterans. She stated it was another positive Memorial Day tribute to those who served.

Councilor Palomba announced that on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 7:30 p.m., the Committee on Human Services would be meeting to discuss affordable housing with the focus being on an Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Council President Sideris stated that while he would like to return to in person meetings, but it is necessary to adhere to state and town protocols relating to methods of congregating safely.

He stated that there would be Charter Review Commission but that protocols would be needed for putting fifteen people in a room and accommodate the echoing acoustics of the room with a Zoom meeting.

He thanked people for wearing masks to maintain the health of the community. He also expressed his sympathies to the families of the 23 residents who have died due to the coronavirus.

#### 12. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers for the public forum.

#### 13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Council President Sideris asked for a moment of silence in memory of Benjamin Overton, Councilor Piccirilli's brother-in-law, who died on April 16, 2020 as a result of COVID-19.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

#### ADDENDUM

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of \_9\_ for, \_0\_ against, \_0\_ present on June 9, 2020.

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Mark S. Sideris, Council President  
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.  
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS  
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the May 12, 2020 Town Council Meeting – Item 4
2. Proclamation Dedicating June 5, 2020 as Watertown High School Class of 2020 Day – May 26, 2020 – Item 6
3. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Fire Department Vehicle Maintenance Account – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 21, 2020 – Item 7A
4. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Construction of the Hosmer and Cuniff Elementary Schools – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 21, 2020 – Item 7B
5. Town Council Approval of Town Attorney – Michael J. Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 26, 2020 – Item 9